

Consumer Product SAFETY ALERT

FROM THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

Consumer Product Safety Alert,

CPSC Bans Infant Cushions

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted unanimously to issue a final rule to ban infant cushions that have been involved in 36 infant suffocations. The Commission took action previously to remove existing products from the marketplace and from consumers.

The Commission's action stems from the concern that other manufacturers might begin production of the same or similar products. "A ban of infant cushions can assure that this product does not reappear into the marketplace," said Chairman Jacqueline Jones-Smith.

There are five essential features that define the infant cushions of concern. The cushions:

- have soft fabric coverings;
- are loosely filled with a granular material such as plastic foam beads or pellets;
- are easily flattened to create a nest so that the infant lies prone on them;
- are capable of conforming to the face or body of an infant; and

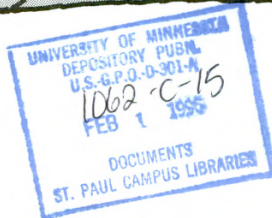
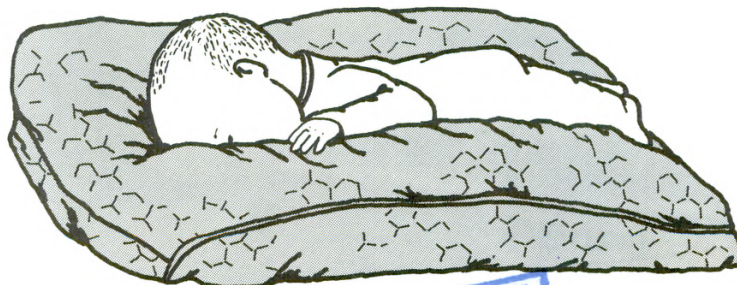
- are intended or promoted for use by children under one year of age.

Of these features, the key characteristic that probably contributes most to deaths is the ability of the cushions to conform to an infant's face or body.

Almost all of the incidents reported to CPSC involved children lying in a prone, stomach down position. In all but two of the incidents, the infant was less than four months old.

In addition to publishing a final rule to ban future production of infant cushions, the Commission urges consumers who may still have infant cushions to call the Commission's toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2772 for recall information and instructions. If the manufacturer of the infant cushion cannot be identified, the Commission urges that the cushion be destroyed immediately.

A death that occurred two years after the initial recall announcement underscores that infant cushions not destroyed may find their way back into infant use at a later date.



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